

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name MADISON AVENUE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCHother names/site number Douglas Memorial Community Church

B-4432

2. Location

street & number 1327 Madison Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore

N/A vicinity

state Maryland code MDcounty Baltimore Citycode 510zip code 21217

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERDate 7/31/92

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

B-4432

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

STONE

roof METAL

other WOOD

METAL

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church is an 1857-1858 brick, Greek Revival, temple-fronted structure with four fluted Corinthian columns below a dentiled gable. The side exterior walls are divided into six bays with Doric pilasters. The interior has Greek Revival and Victorian decorative elements. Projecting from the rear is a lower two story Colonial Revival decorated wing which appears to date from about 1900 though the basic structure may have been erected in the preceding decades. A low two story wing of recent date projects from the south. A mid-nineteenth century iron railing decorates the entrance.

☒ See continuation sheet

For GENERAL DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

8. Statement of Significance

B-4432

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1857-1900

Significant Dates

1857-1900

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect-Thomas Balbirnie

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church is important for its architectural character. Built in 1857-1858, the church is one of a small number of Greek Revival temple-front public buildings standing in Baltimore. This group includes the Lloyd Street Synagogue and Mc Kim Free School (both of which are listed in the National Register). A number of small churches of this temple type were built in Maryland, some of masonry and some of wood construction. They were constructed generally around the Baltimore area. Stone Chapel in Baltimore County is a good example. These all date from about the same period as Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. Enhancing the architectural significance is the Colonial Revival interior of the back wing added about 1900. It is an elaborate public space which remains intact. Few public spaces of this sort in Baltimore have remained unaltered.

☒ See continuation sheet No. 3

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

B-4432

Historical Review - Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church - 1884--D.H. Carroll
Publisher, Baltimore, 1884.

Afro-American - Newspaper - various dates

Baltimore News Post - Newspaper - various dates

Baltimore American - Pictorial Review - May 12, 1956

Baltimore Sun - Newspaper - various dates

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than 1 acre

USGS Quad: Baltimore East West

UTM References

A 118 859660 4351550
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

D _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is rectangular in shape and measures 130' along Lafayette Avenue and 103'6" along Madison Avenue.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Nominated property consists only of the city lot upon which the church stands.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Meyers II, President

organization Meyers & Affiliates, Inc. date September 12, 1991

street & number 100 West Road, Suite 300 telephone (410) 832-7003

city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21204

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Madison Avenue Methodist
Episcopal Church
Baltimore
Maryland

B-4432

Section number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

This example of Greek Revival architecture is reportedly the oldest public building in the Bolton Hill area. It's cornerstone was laid on July 1, 1857, by the Reverend Bishop Waugh. Two stories high and typical of many Methodist Churches, the upper level is characterized by easily identified Greek Revival elements. A typical portico with four corinthian columns at the entrance supports a heavy, unadorned, pedimented gable. The columns, which are in deplorable condition, sit on cast iron bases and are composed of brick each with a failing fluted cement Stucco finish from the base to their corinthian sandstone capitals. These in turn support a painted unadorned wood frieze except for a "dog tooth" wood dentil molding. Brick pilasters frame the entrances and the perimeter walls and window openings. Sandstone sills and bracketed cornices trim the doorways and window openings on both levels as well as a slightly lower dependency at the rear which serves as a church Social Hall and reception area. The exterior was painted in 1877 though the paint was reported as removed by sandblasting in 1944. There is also some evidence that there were windows other than the present painted glazing though the existing windows have a most interesting and unusual opalescent character.

Similar corinthian columns and Greek Revival style is repeated on the interior of the chancel under upper level side and rear balconies and at the altar. There is a polychrome ceiling with expressed beams which run both transversely and longitudinally, also highly decorated. From the intervening panels are suspended multi-armed brass lighting fixtures. There are several gas fixtures still existing which were typical of that era in Baltimore when illuminating gas was utilized, though the present sanctuary lights appear to be early electric fixtures.

In the gallery is an organ reportedly built and installed by E&G Hook in 1866 at a cost of \$4,400. Many of the original pipes are still intact. The pews are replacements of the originals and have a Georgian character with painted ends. The floor of the narthex is surfaced with multi-colored tiles in a geometric pattern. Sanctuary doors are massive in size with rails, styles and panels all with faux graining. Most are in need of substantial repair as are the painted tin roof, the metal gutters and downspouts, much of the wood entablature trim and cornices and many of the sandstone trim elements.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

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Episcopal Church
Baltimore
Maryland

B-4432

Section number 7 Page 2

The undercroft, originally called the lecture room, is primarily used for Sunday School and other community outreach programs. Church offices and meeting rooms are also on this level. It was designed to accommodate 600 persons on this first floor and one thousand in the lecture room.

An addition at the rear of the main structure was built possibly as early as the 1870's, although interior stylistic features are circa 1900. The exterior sides have leaded glass windows, projecting bays, ceramic tile facing on an Empire Style mantle and over mantle, crystal chandeliers and ornate bracketed ceiling beams. It is thought that virtually all these elements are original, though recently painted with non-traditional colors. The plaster walls, ceilings, and some moldings have been damaged as a result of roof and wall leaks and need repair as quickly as possible to avoid further substantial deterioration.

Essentially, the structure fills the site. At the Madison Street facade there exists brick walls and iron railings surrounding granite stairs which lead to the upper level entrance. Ornamental iron light fixtures flank the columned portico. The masonry walls are 1954 replacements of walls which were in the same location and unfortunately, are not of similar brick in color or texture. Openings in those walls have infills of concrete block screen material in the manner of Edward Durrell Stone and detract from the original character. In addition, wire screening has been used to attempt to keep birds from roosting on the corinthian column capitals which have become black. Further, the stucco fluting used over the brick portico columns is broken from its bond with the brick, and is literally falling off. The present pastor, Reverend Bascom explained that a "wash" was placed over the existing fluting "a number of years ago." It appears to be of portland cement and possibly created a chemical reaction with what probably was an original stucco finish. It also appears, from the samples taken, that the finish was once possibly painted to resemble red sandstone. Additional analysis is warranted prior to badly needed stabilization and repair. Roof repairs are required at the earliest possible date.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Madison Avenue Methodist
Episcopal Church
Baltimore
Maryland

B-4432

Section number 8 Page 3

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural/Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Religion

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) or Use(s):

RELIGION/religious facility

Known Design Source: Architect-Thomas Balbirnie

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Madison Avenue Methodist
Episcopal Church
Baltimore
Maryland

B-4432

Section number 8 Page 4

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church is reported to be the oldest public building in the Bolton Hill area. That area is now an Historic District, though this church is immediately outside the boundary of that district. It is almost a duplicate of one of the early significant Methodist churches in this country and in Baltimore, where in 1770 Methodism in the U.S. had its roots. That church was the Charles Street Methodist Church built in 1843, at the northeast corner of Charles and Fayette streets. That resource was demolished in 1891 when Fayette Street was widened.

The land for the Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church was donated by Mr. Henry Tiffany who owned "Rose Hill." His was one of the early Baltimore families for whom nearby Tiffany Street was named. It was the first Methodist church with free seating. One of Tiffany's conditions was that this church "be equal in value and architecture to the Charles Street edifice." The original lot was 80' on Madison by 130' between Townsend Street, later to be named Lafayette Avenue, and Morris Alley, now Morris Street. The building dimensions were "70' x 105', 20' of the length being occupied by the portico."

Owned, cared for, and later controlled by the City Station of the Baltimore Conference of Methodism, the church was conveyed to the congregation and incorporated as the Madison Avenue Station on February 20, 1865. The parsonage was erected in 1869 on an adjoining lot purchased for \$2,083.33. In 1877 the church was renovated and painted, and in 1883 the interior was "refitted."

Methodism inaugurated the first Sabbath School in England, the first in America and the first in Baltimore with the start of the "Asbury Sunday-School Society" in 1816. This church started its own Sunday School in June 1858.

Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church continued until 1927 when, owing to demographic changes, many of its constituents had moved further out to new suburban areas. As happened with many other churches in the area, this resource was purchased by a black congregation and in 1943 was named Douglas Memorial Community Church after its first pastor, Reverend Frederick Douglas.

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Madison Avenue Methodist
Episcopal Church
Baltimore
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B-4432

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Renovations were made in 1954, including changing of the sanctuary windows and painting of the sanctuary ceiling, which was done by a German artist by the name of Wells.

Many early and prominent Baltimore families were members of the Methodist Episcopal Church during it's 70 year existence. Familiar old Maryland and Baltimore names such as Hopkins, Tilghman, Baldwin, Black, Warfield, Slagle, Parker, Hiss, Merryman, and Rogers were all members of this early congregation.

Likewise, following purchase by the Cosmopolitan Church in 1927, many influential and prominent black families have been and continue to be members of what is now Douglas Memorial Community Church including the present Mayor of Baltimore, the Honorable Kurt L. Schmoke, and his family. Some of those significant members were George W.S. McMechen and family (he was the third Black to graduate from Yale Law School); Dr. O.B. Jones, physician; Alma Kelly, Educator; Samuel T. Dorsey, founder; John H. Murphy, Jr., founder of the Afro-American Newspaper; Beatrice Hall, educator who devoted her life to working with the YWCA; Wilbur H. Waters, Clergyman; Dr. W. Rutherford Boykin, physician; Estelle Tilghman, nurse; Dr. Frances Cardozo, physician; Henry G. Parks, founder of the Parks Sausage Co. and former City Council member; William V. Lockwood, educator (for whom the downtown campus of the Community College of Baltimore is named); and Clayton T. James, prominent Baltimore businessman.



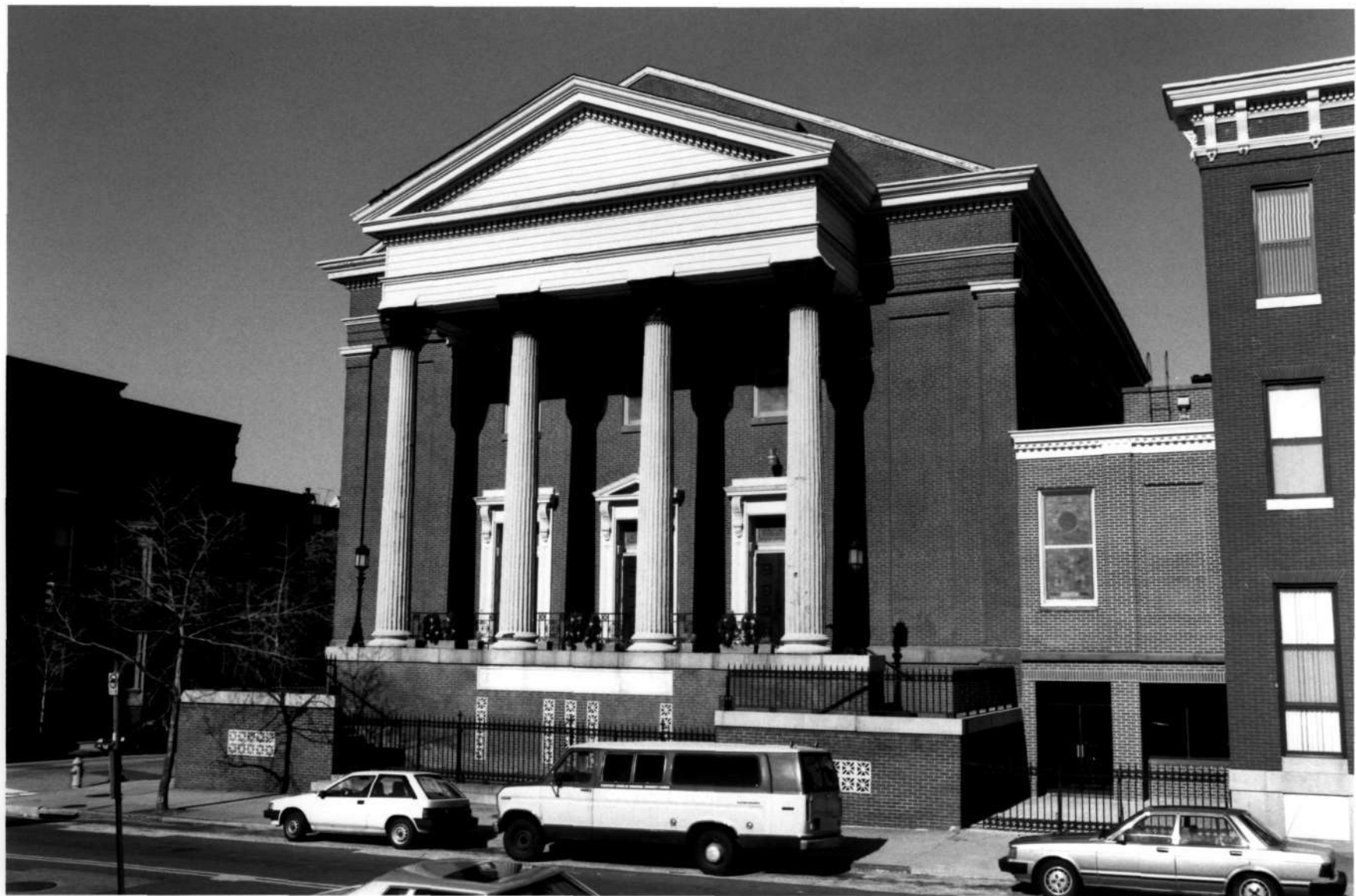
B-4432

Madison Ave.
Methodist
Episcopal
Church

Baltimore
Maryland

18/859660/
4351550

Baltimore East
quad



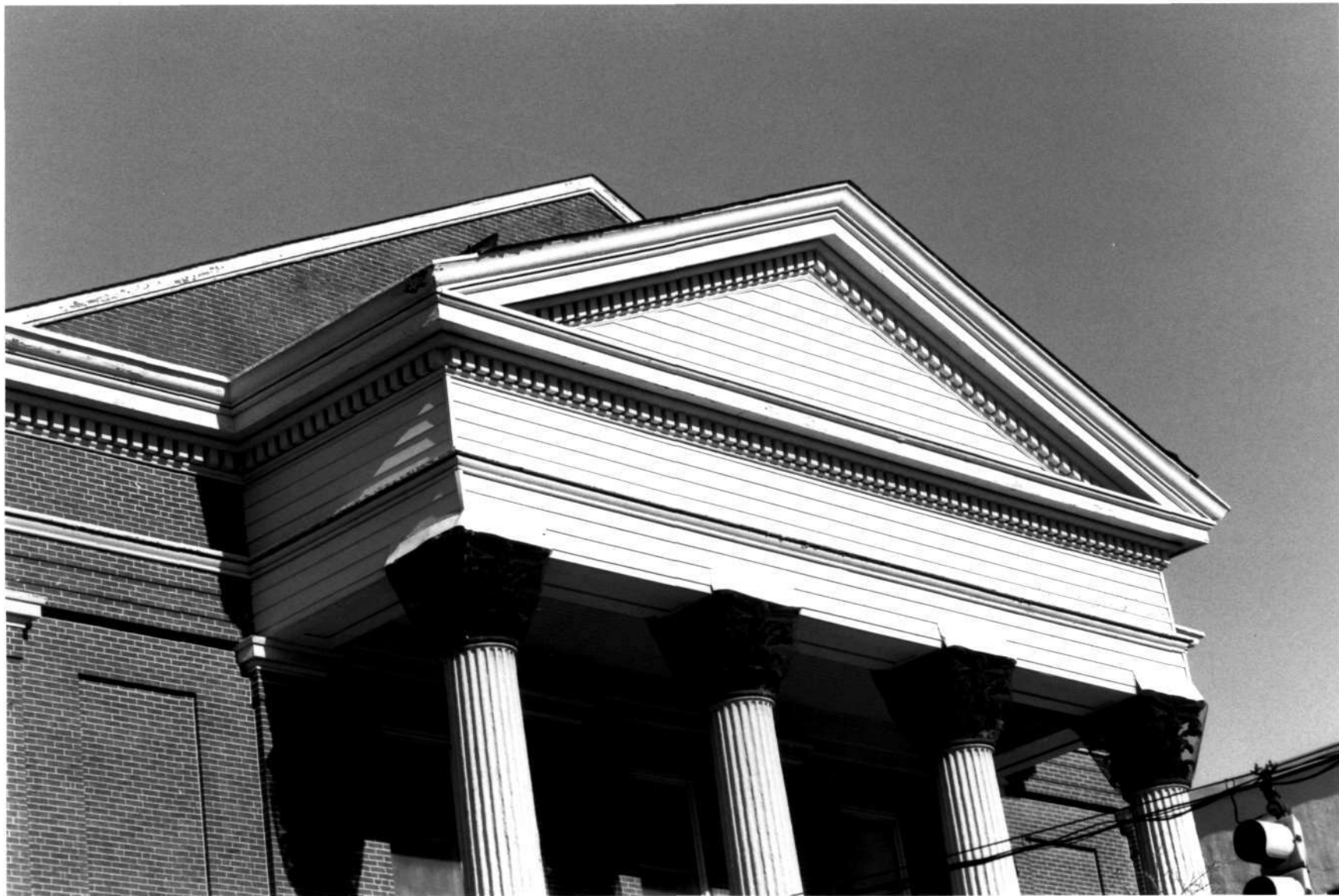
Madison Ave M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore Md. 21230

South west elevation
(Madison Street)

1/33



Madison Ave M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

South west elevation of
portico pediment and
column capitals.

2/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-44/32

Ron Haisfield 3/91

1267 Battery Ave.

Baltimore, Md. 21230

Cornice + transom over
center entrance doors

Under Portico (s.w. elevation)

3/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Westernmost corner portico
column capital and pediment
detailing

4/33



Madison Ave, M.E. Church
Baltimore, MD

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, MD. 21230

looking northwest
under portico

5/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md 21230

Westernmost portico column
looking up - showing severe
deterioration of stucco
fluting.

6/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md 21230

Cast & wrought iron
lamp post and part
Southernmost column
of portico.

7/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91

1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Southern most portico
column base showing fluting
stucco deterioration.

8/33



Madison Ave. M. E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md 21230

Cast iron portico column
base and wrought iron
railing looking south
from under portico.

9/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md 21230

View of Southeast and
Northeast sides

(Lafayette Ave on left and
Madison Avenue on right)

10/33



Madison Ave, M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Hausfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

N.W. Exterior Elevation

11/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Northwest corner and
entrance below Social
Hall

12/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91

1267 Battery Ave.

Baltimore, Md. 21230

Cornice of red sandstone
over N.W. corner entry

13/33



Madison Ave, M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Hausfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Rear Wall of Social Hall
looking South west

14/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Hausfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Rear Wall of Social Hall
looking Northwest

15/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore - Md

Ron Haisfield 3/91

1267 Battery Ave

Baltimore, Md. 21230

South east elevation
(partial)

16/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

For Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Undercroft of Church
Looking North east

17/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4/432

For Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md 21230

Converted original brass
gas sconce under
Social Hall

18/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

View looking West at
lower level entry lobby

19/33



Madison Ave . M.E. Church
Baltimore , Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore , Md. 21230

Converted wrought iron
gas chandelier on lower
level at entry lobby.

20/33



Madison Ave. M. E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md, 21230

Leaded glass window on intermediate
landing at North corner

21/33



Madison Ave M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Leaded glass windows on
landing to Social Hall-
2nd level - North corner

22/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Social Hall looking north

23/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91

1267 Battery Ave

Baltimore, Md. 21230

Social Hall Looking East

24/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Fireplace, mantel and
over mantel - Southwest
wall of Social Hall.

25/33



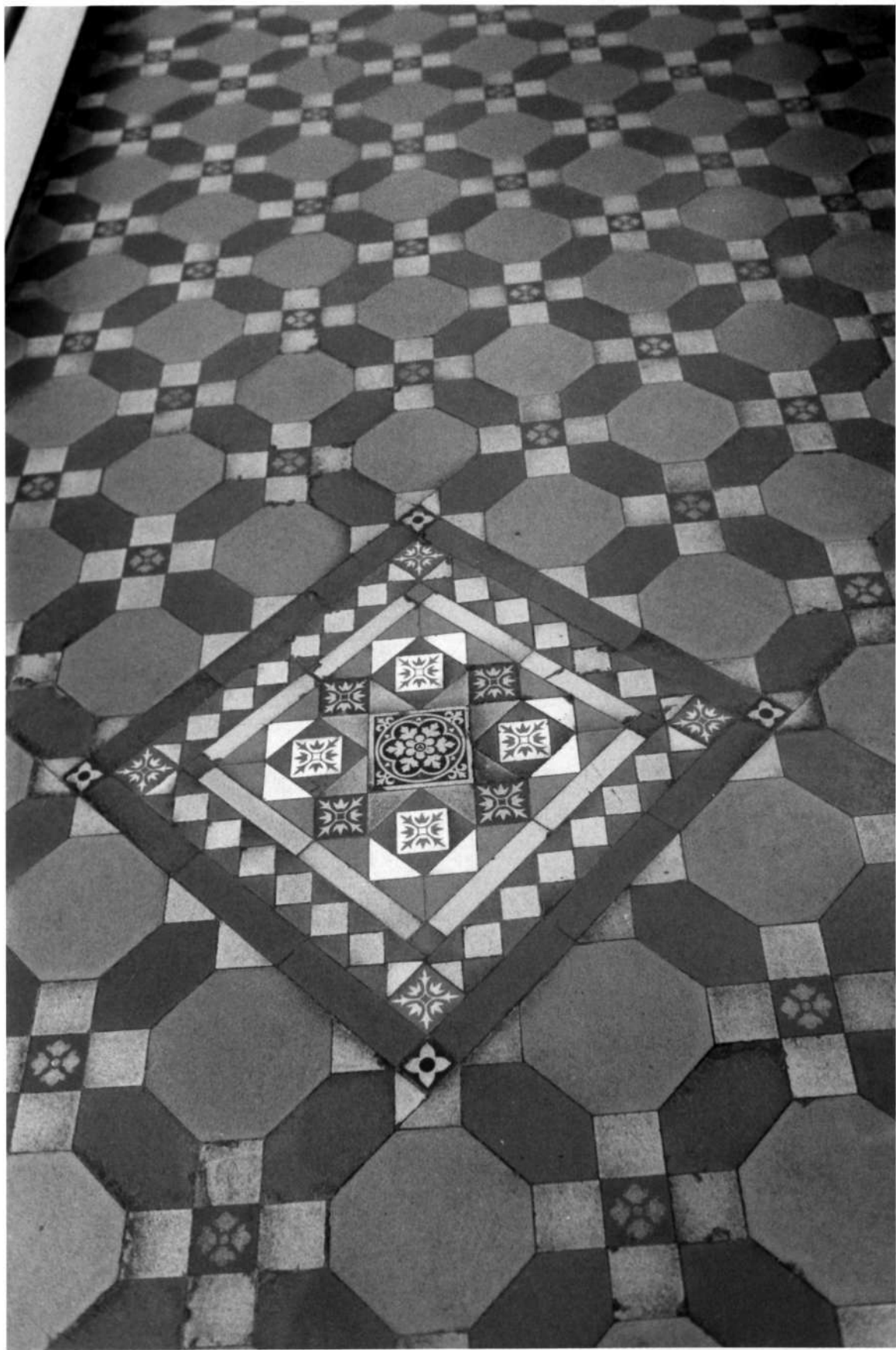
Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Narthex looking northwest
from landing on stair to
balcony.

26/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

For Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Ceramic tile Narthex
floor - (multi-colored)

27 /33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91

1267 Battery Ave

Baltimore, Md. 21230

Sanctuary and altar looking
northeast down center aisle

28/33



Madison Ave. M. E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21230

Elevation of Altar
N.E. end of Sanctuary

29/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Avenue
Baltimore, MD. 21230

View of Sanctuary Interior
Looking North from
Balcony

30/33

B-4432



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Hausfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21230

View of Sanctuary Interior
looking South west at
rear elevation

31/33



Madison Ave. M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91

1267 Battery Ave.

Baltimore, Md, 21230

Typical Sanctuary Ceiling
painted detail.

32/33



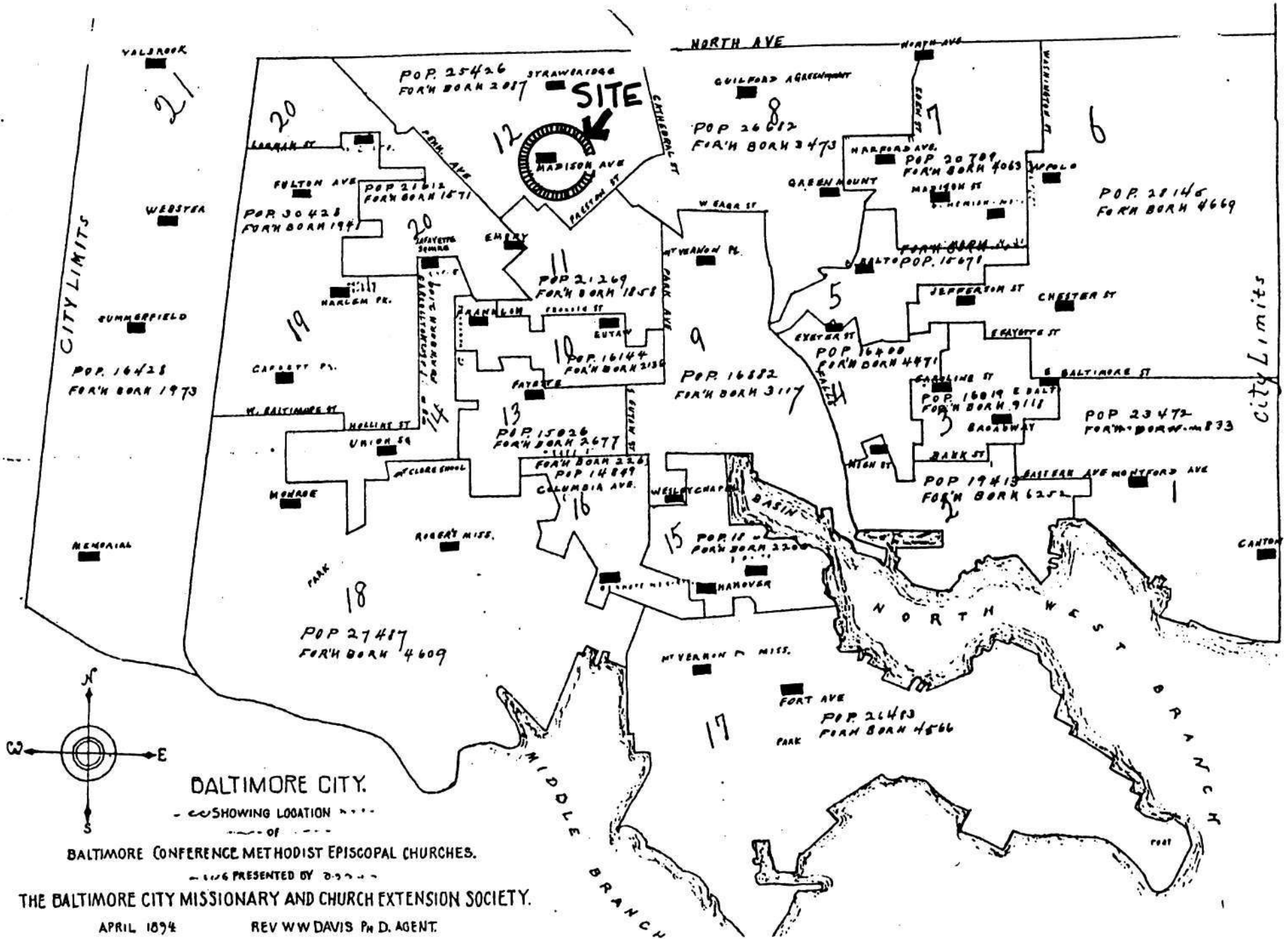
Madison Ave M.E. Church
Baltimore, Md.

B-4432

Ron Haisfield 3/91
1267 Battery Ave
Baltimore, Md. 21230

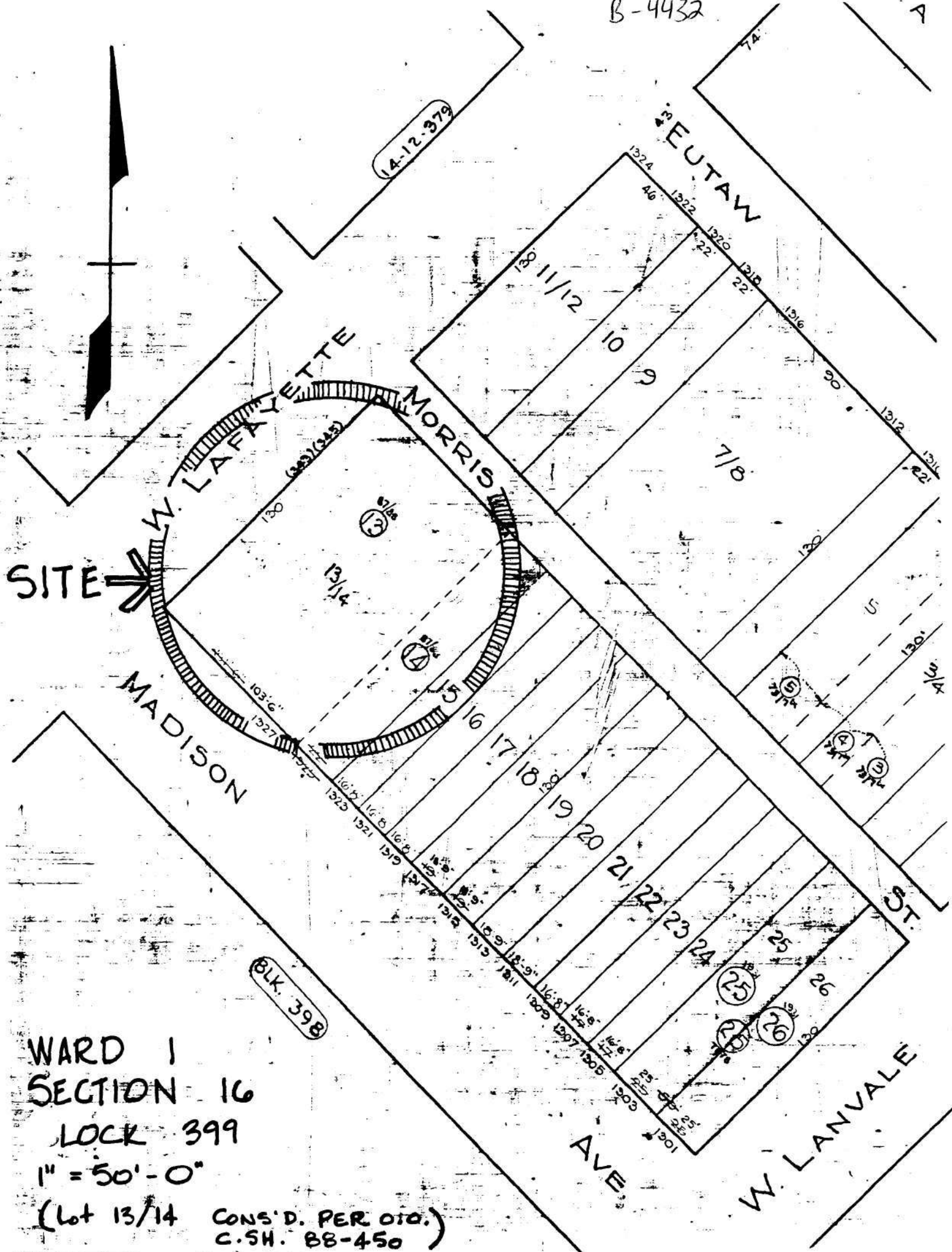
Typical Sanctuary Ceiling
light fixture and
decoration

33/33



B-4432

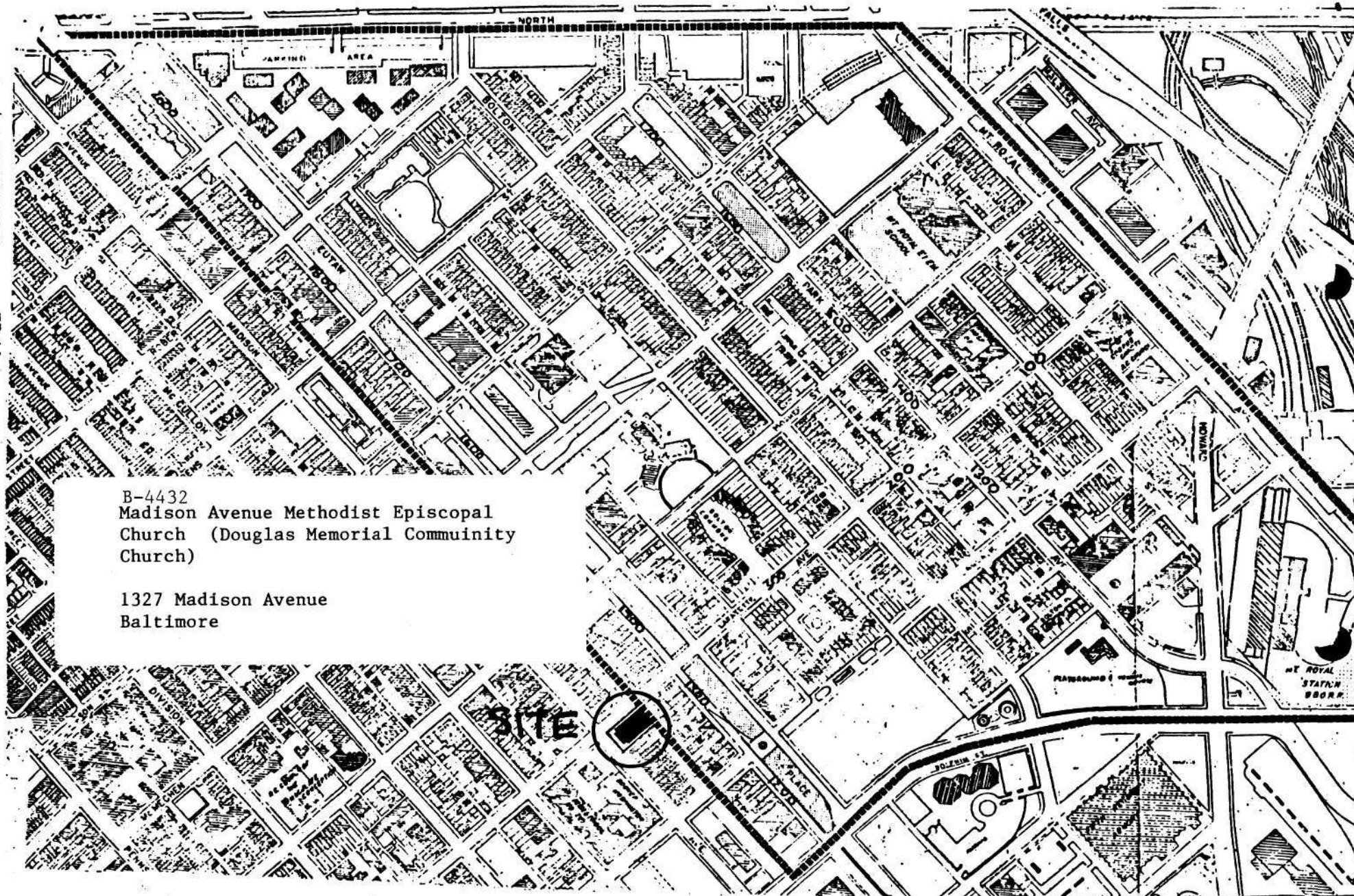
A



WARD 1
SECTION 16
LOCK 399

1" = 50'-0"

(Lot 13/14 CONS'D. PER OTO.
C. SH. BB-450)



B-4432
Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal
Church (Douglas Memorial Community
Church)

1327 Madison Avenue
Baltimore

BOLTON HILL BALTIMORE CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT 6/15/67
BOLTON HILL NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT 9/17/71